

To: Washburn, Ben[washburn.ben@epa.gov]
From: Conor James Gearin
Sent: Tue 2/16/2016 9:12:56 PM
Subject: RE: West Lake Interview Request

Dear Benjamin,

Thanks for your email. My deadline is Thursday at 12 p.m. ET. I will need to be able to attribute the answers you send to me to a named EPA individual.

Would you be available for a phone interview? I would prefer that method.

Here are my questions:

The bill S.2306, which now awaits a House vote, would require the Army Corps of Engineers to take over management of the West Lake Landfill Site from the Environmental Protection Agency, while keeping West Lake's status as a Superfund site.

-Why are lawmakers seeking to remove EPA's authority from the site?

-Is there a danger of the underground fire in the Bridgeton Landfill reaching the radioactive waste in the West Lake Landfill?

-Does the EPA feel that this bill would be a step in the right direction towards dealing with the problems of the West Lake Landfill in a manner that satisfies local residents' concerns about the site's hazards? If not, why, and what should be done instead?

Thanks for your time,

Conor

Conor Gearin
Undark Magazine
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Science Writing S.M. Class of '16
cgearin@mit.edu
314.662.6010

From: Washburn, Ben [washburn.ben@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 4:05 PM
To: Conor James Gearin
Subject: West Lake Interview Request

Hi Conor,

Due the time critical nature of some current site priorities, we unfortunately will not be able to pull the project manager off of site work to conduct an interview. However, we can answer your questions though email if you like.

Feel free to send your questions to me and I'll take the lead on getting them answered for you.
Let me know if you have any questions.

Benjamin M. Washburn

Public Affairs Specialist

EPA Region 7

(913) 551-7364